

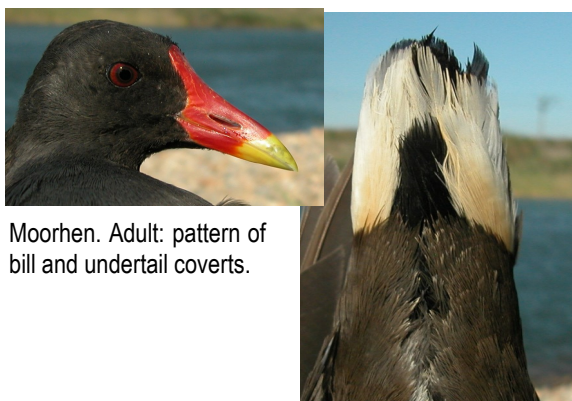


Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Male (22-V).

### COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

#### IDENTIFICATION

25-31 cm. **Adult** with dark plumage, with slate brown upperparts; white undertail coverts white with black central pair; flank crossed with a white band; red and yellow bill; green legs, with a reddish band on tibia. **Juvenile** brown olive with white chin and throat; pale brown-greenish bill.



Moorhen. Adult: pattern of bill and undertail coverts.



Moorhen. Juvenile: pattern of bill and undertail coverts.

#### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

#### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be an useful characteristic in extreme specimens: in **adult** birds, **male** with wing longer than 185 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 166 mm.

#### AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with grey brown underparts; whitish chin and throat; brown olive upperparts; grey brown iris; legs without red band on tibia; greenish-pale brown bill; 9th primary with narrow tip.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with some white feathers on chin; sometimes upperparts with retained **juvenile** brown feathers admixed with grey **adult-type**; reddish iris of **adult** usually acquired since January; all specimens have **juvenile** flight feathers.

**Adult** with slate grey underparts; olive brown upperparts; legs with reddish band on tibia; without white feathers on chin; reddish iris; 9th primary with broad tip.



Moorhen. Ageing. Pattern of bill: top adult; bottom juvenile.

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Moorhen. Ageing. Pattern of chin: top left adult; top right 2nd year; left juvenile.



Moorhen. Ageing. Pattern of underparts: left adult; right juvenile.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers retaining **juvenile** tail and flight feathers; some birds can change wing coverts and tertials; generally completed in September. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult confined only to body feathers.

**PHENOLOGY**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

- Summer visitor    ■ Resident
- Wintering        ■ On passage



Moorhen. Adult. Female (27-V).

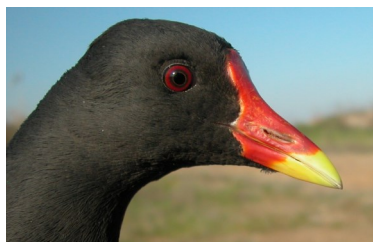


Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Male (17-II).

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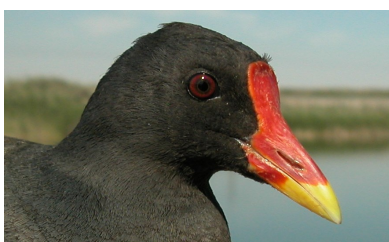
Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Female (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Head pattern and bill and iris colour. From top to bottom: 2nd year male (17-II); 2nd year female (22-V); juvenile (23-VII); young (06-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. Juvenile (23-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and bill and iris colour: top male (22-V); bottom female (27-V).

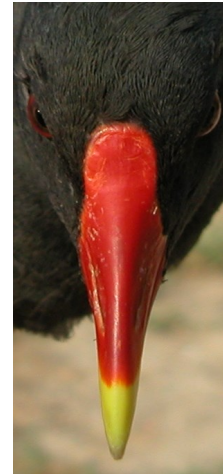
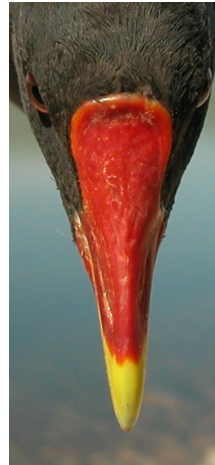


Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (22-V); bottom female (27-V).

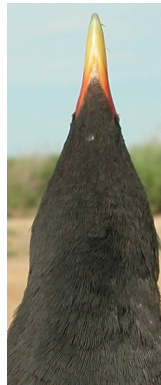
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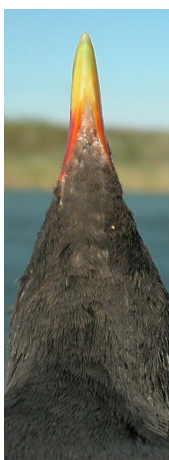
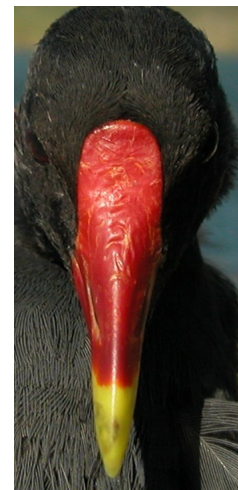
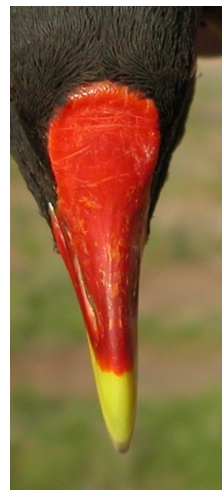
Moorhen. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (17-II); top right 2nd year female (22-V); left juvenile (23-VII).



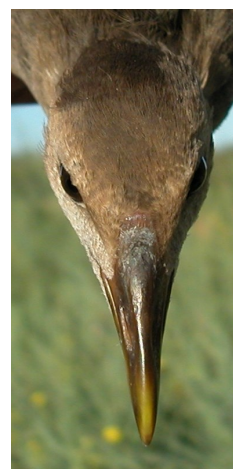
Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Pattern of frontal shield: left male (22-V); right female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Chin pattern: left male (22-V); right female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Chin pattern: left 2nd year male (17-II); middle 2nd year female (22-V); right juvenile (23-VII)



Moorhen. Spring. Pattern of frontal shield: top left 2nd year male (17-II); top right 2nd year female (22-V); left juvenile (23-VII).

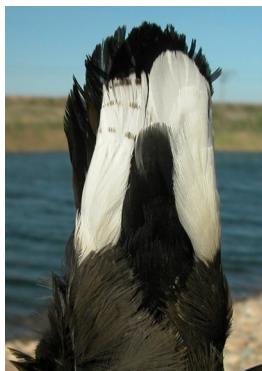
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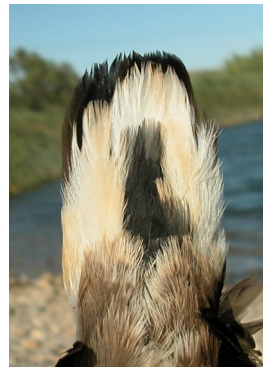
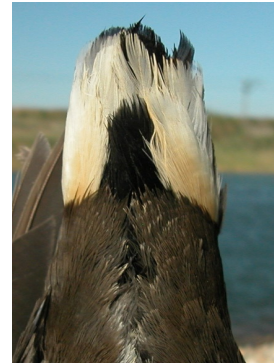
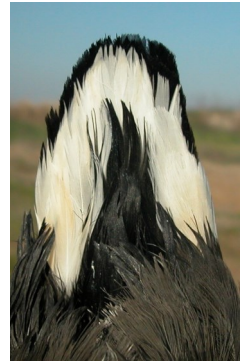
Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Flank pattern: top male (22-V); bottom female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Flank pattern: top 2nd year male (17-II); middle 2nd year female (22-V); bottom juvenile (23-VII)



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (22-V); right female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Pattern of undertail coverts: top left 2nd year male (17-II); top right 2nd year female (22-V); left juvenile (23-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (17-II); top right 2nd year female (22-V); left juvenile (23-VII).

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Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (22-V); right female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Underparts pattern: left male (22-V); right female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Underparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (17-II); top right 2nd year female (22-V); left juvenile (23-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Pattern of legs: top male (22-V); bottom female (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (17-II).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (23-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (23-VII).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (17-II).



Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (22-V).





Moorhen. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (27-V).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (17-II).



Moorhen. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (22-V).



Moorhen. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (23-VII).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Male (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Male (26-XI).

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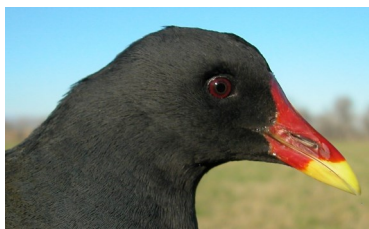
Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).



Moorhen.  
Autumn.  
Adult. Head  
pattern and  
iris and bill  
colour: top  
male (26-XI);  
bottom female  
(26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).

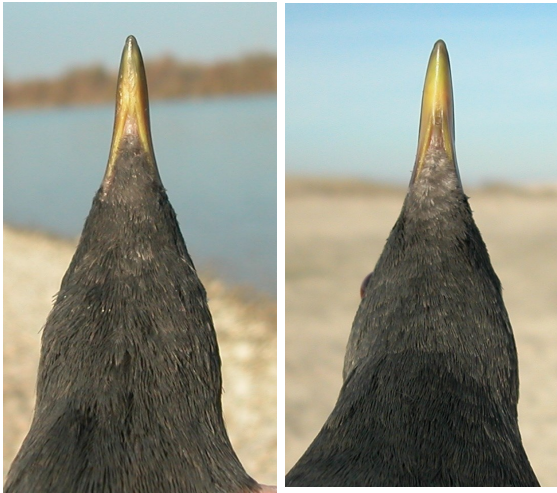


Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Head pattern and iris and bill colour: top male (26-XI); bottom female (26-XI).

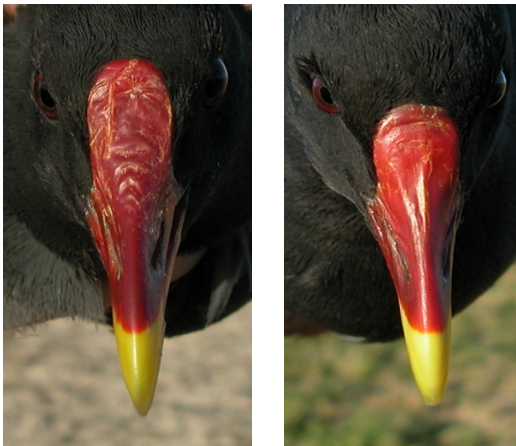


Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Chin pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).

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Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Chin pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of frontal shield: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Pattern of frontal shield: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Flank pattern: top male (26-XI); bottom female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Flank pattern: top male (26-XI); bottom female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Underparts pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Underparts pattern: left male (26-XI); right female (26-XI).

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Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (26-XI).

Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Pattern of legs: top male (26-XI); bottom female (26-XII).

Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Pattern of legs: top male (26-XI); bottom female (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (23-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of primaries and tip of 9th primary (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. female: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (26-XII).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).



Moorhen. Autumn. 1st year. Female: pattern of secondaries (26-XI).